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NATSUKO HEIUCHI

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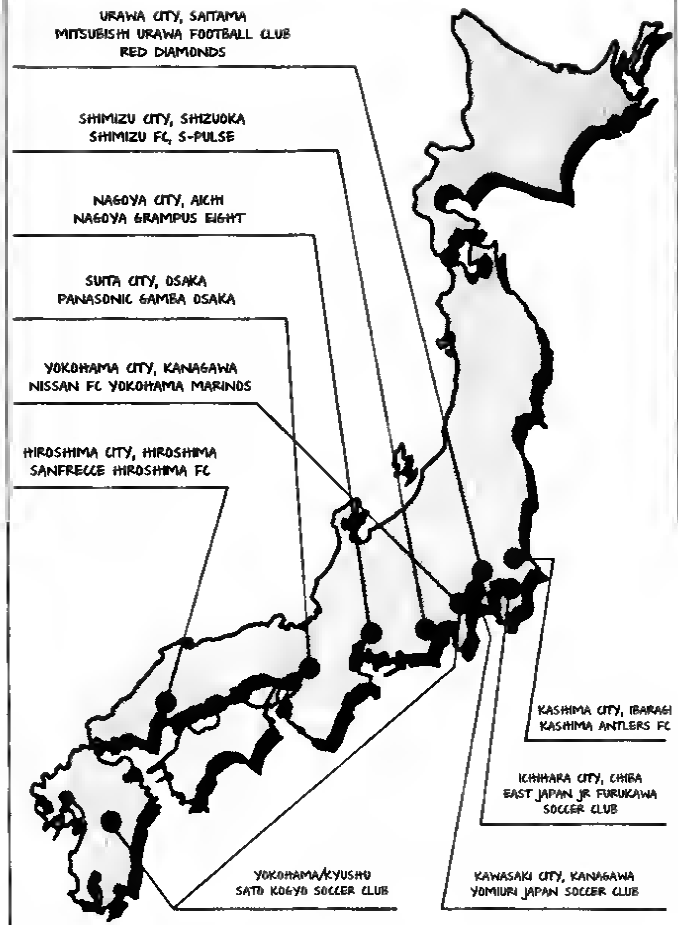
MAY, 1993. JAPANESE SOCCER'S FIRST PRO-LEAGUE, J-LEAGUE STARTS...
MITSUB
URAWA
Red
THERE ARE 100 MILLION PEOPLE OUT THERE IN THE PUBLIC, 100 MILLION FANS, AND A FEW PLAYERS...
THOSE FEW HAVE WORKED THEIR WAY TO THE TOP
BUT IF YOU THEM COMPARE UP UNTIL NOW MOTOHASHI-KUN,
THIS IS A TEN-FOLD INCREASE ON YOUR WAGE
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE SOMETHING OF A 'VETERAN FOR OUR RED DIAMONDS TEAM.

GALANT

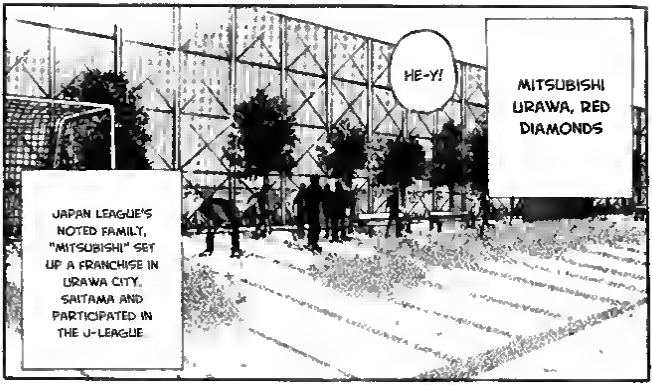
Jドリーム
CHAPTER 1 - THE COST OF FAME

MAP OF TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN THE J-LEAGUE



ARE YOU THINKING OF GOING TO ANOTHER TEAM LOOKING FOR BETTER CONDITIONS?
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH THE PAY?
OR.
HEY, MOTOHASHI-KUN!
HUH? UM.
PLEASE, LET ME THINK ABOUT IT
THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH..
NO WAY, THAT GUY?
I READ IT IN YOMIURI, APPARENTLY OK IS GETTING 20 MILLION.
41 MILLION.
THAT WAS THE ANNUAL SALARY GIVEN TO THE RED DIAMOND'S ACE, JOUJI MOTOHASHI (32 YEARS OLD)
YOU IDIOT!
I WONDER IF I CAN GET 15 MILLION TOO...
AT LEAST SAY YOU'LL GET A MITSUBISHI!
THEN I'D BE ABLE TO GET A PORSCHE! A PORSCHE!

★ THE TEAM IS SPONSORED BY MITSUBISHI


HE-Y!
MITSUBISHI URAWA, RED DIAMONDS
JAPAN LEAGUE'S NOTED FAMILY, "MITSUBISHI" SET UP A FRANCHISE IN URAWA CITY, SAITAMA AND PARTICIPATED IN THE J-LEAGUE

HOW'RE YOUR KNEES, JOUJI?
HIROSHI KOBAYASHI (31) SPECIALIST TRAINER
THE NEEDLE FROM THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY SHOULD BE TAKING EFFECT SOON
IT SHOULD GET RID OF THE PAIN
HMM?
IT'S 41 MILLION.

THEY TOLD ME IT'S 41 MILLION,
MY PAY
HU... HUH?
YOU DID IT, EH?
YEAH OF COURSE YOU'D GET THAT MUCH
IT'S TOO MUCH
Saitama Urawa Stadium

...
I THINK IT'S BY NO MEANS A LOW WAGE
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU'D GET WORKING FOR THE YOMIURI TEAM BUT. .
HUH?
...I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I'M THE SAME.
...
IF YOU COULD SELL ENOUGH NEEDLES TO GET THAT MUCH?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THAT MUCH MONEY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HIROSHI?
THESE PAST 14 YEARS...
WELL YOU'VE COME FROM A BUSINESSMAN'S WAGE,
TO THIS ALL ON YOUR OWN EFFORTS
WHAT'S WITH MONEY?
MONEY DECIDES EVERYTHING.

ON THE BUS RIDE BACK,
YOU HELD YOUR NEWBORN SON...
AND YOU WERE OVERCOME WITH SHOCK FOR HOURS.
I STILL REMEMBER IT...
THE BATTLE AGAINST CHINA FOR THE RIGHT TO COMPETE IN THE SEOUL OLYMPICS.
THAT DEFEAT
AND THOSE WERE BAD TIMES FOR JAPANESE SOCCER.
THEY HADN'T QUALIFIED FOR THE OLYMPICS SINCE MEXICO,
AND AS FOR THE WORLD CUP...

THE COLDNESS OF THE OCTOBER RAIN...

THE EXTREME HAPPINESS SOCCER HAS GIVEN YOU UP UNTIL NOW
AND ALSO THE EXTREME SUFFERING.
AND PAIN
YOU CAN'T MEASURE THAT WITH MONEY.
I'VE GOTTEN ANGRY SO QUICKLY.

!
... BUT YOU KNOW JOUJI,
IN THE END A PRO GETS PAID
GETTING MONEY FROM SOCCER,
IS LIKE PUTTING A PRICE ON FEET.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
...

I'M THINKING OF RETIREMENT.
I CAN'T MAKE ANY POOR PLAYS ANYMORE.
..THAT'S WHY,
IF I BECOME UNABLE TO PLAY MY BEST..
I'LL BE 33 NEXT YEAR
—URAWA RED DIAMONDS HUH. .
OH, I WON!

THEN IT'S DECIDED
ITS HERE.

RETIRE-MENT? JOUJI!
YOU... THAT'S... TOO EARLY!
IT'S STILL TOO SOON.
IT WOULD NOT BE MANLY!
YOU ARE GETTING OLDER,
YOU'RE LOSING YOUR STRENGTH
BUT SOCCER ISN'T ALL ABOUT POWER, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT HOW YOU FIGHT!

YOU'RE THE "FACE" OF THE REDS
BESIDES WE HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MANY YOUNG PLAYERS RECENTLY
THE TEAM STILL NEEDS YOU
HEY OLD MAN.
THAT OLD MAN OVER THERE!
NLFC
...
HEY, WHO ARE YOU CALLING OLD MAN?
THIS IS THE REDS' ACE, JOUJI MOTOHASHI.
THERE'S A NEWCOMER'S TEST TODAY RIGHT?
WHERE ARE THEY HAVING IT?
NLFC

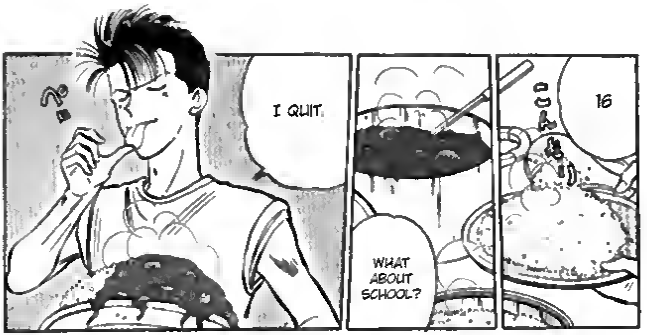
IT'S ON THE FIELD OVER THERE.
THANKS OLD MAN!
OH BOY...
WHAT A BRAT...
...BUT YOU KNOW, JOUJI?
I'M ALL FOR YOU BECOMING A PRO,
ASIDE FROM MONEY AND ANYTHING ELSE, IT CHANGES A PLAYER'S AWARENESS
IT'S WITHOUT A DOUBT A LEVEL UP
IF YOU DID THAT,
THE WORLD CUP WOULDN'T BE JUST A DREAM...
WORLD CUP...

...
HASN'T THAT BEEN YOUR DREAM SINCE HIGH SCHOOL?
THAT'S RIGHT, THE WORLD CUP!
TRAIN
IT'S WITHOUT A DOUBT YOUR DREAM!
THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT'S THERE TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT?
...HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO EMBARRASSING?
THE BUS TOWARDS YOUR DREAM IS COMING
AND YOU JOUJI HAVE THE TICKET
I'LL NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE NEEDLE LATER
OK
I'M GOING TO GO WATCH THE TEST

NEXT WEEK IS THE NAVISCO CUP
FINALLY...
WELL DONE.
WELL DONE.
LOOKS LIKE HE FAILED
THAT KID FROM BEFORE

YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT?
THESE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING
THEY CAN'T SEE MY POWER WITH THAT TEST
YOU WANNA GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
EURO
ASS-HOLES!
STUPID
SONS-OF-BITCHES

I'VE BEEN LIVING OFF ONE MEAL A DAY ♪
R-REALLY!?
LUCKY~!
大吉
COFFEE
大吉
APPARENTLY V STURISH PLAYERS OFTEN GO TO A RESTAURANT CALLED 'DAIKICHI'
.....
YAY!
YEAH, SURE
CAN I HAVE SECONDS?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?



*T/N: MEANS THANKS FOR THE FOOD. IT'S SAID BEFORE MEALS

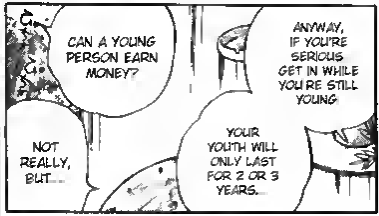
WELL, EVERYONE FAILS
IN REGULAR MATCHES
ABOUT HIM... THEY SAY HE'S STRONG BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BASICS...
PLUS HE HAS NO ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS,
YEAH
YOU BROUGHT HIM ALONG?
HE FAILED SO I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST GET HIM SOME FOOD
HERE
WHAT'S THIS? A RESUME HUH...
TAKA AKABOSHI, 16 YEARS OLD...
YOUR FATHER WAS A... HUH?
HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU CHANGE SCHOOLS?
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
HIS WRITING IS TERRIBLE
THERE ARE MISTAKES EVERYWHERE!

"AN ORDINARY PERSON GIVES BIRTH TO A BIG-SHOT."
A BLACK KITE GIVING BIRTH TO A FALCON IS LIKE THIS,
THIS IS HILARIOUS!
YOU'RE A "FALCON"!
AND YOUR FATHER IS A CONSTRUCTION WORKER!
THAT I'D BECOME A BIG-SHOT
MY PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER, TAKENAKA-SENSEI SAID,
!
I AM A BIG-SHOT.
HAHA. LISTEN TO THIS GUY
TURNING DOWN A BIG-SHOT LIKE ME,
THIS TEAM IS FULL OF IDIOTS

THIS FOOD IS SO GOOD
I READ IT A MAGAZINE SOMEWHERE,
OF COURSE!
IF YOU GO WIN THE WORLD CUP THEY'LL GIVE YOU 10 MILLION YEN!
"THE GOOD GUY WHO GOT REJECTED FOR A WHOLE YEAR STRAIGHT!"
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE IN A PRO TEAM?
FOR THE MONEY?

THEN NO THANKS
TCH,
THIS ISN'T THE ONLY TEAM...

YOU KNOW...
IT ISN'T SO GREAT BEING A PRO


CAN A YOUNG PERSON EARN MONEY?
ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE SERIOUS GET IN WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG
NOT REALLY, BUT...
YOUR YOUTH WILL ONLY LAST FOR 2 OR 3 YEARS...

HOLD ON A SECOND
!
NEXT IS, LET'S SEE...
THERE'S A TEST IN HIROSHIMA
RIGHT...
SO I'LL GO TO HIROSHIMA...
WHAT'S THIS IN YOUR POCKET?
SUGAR, CREAM NAPKINS... WHEN DID YOU TAKE THIS?
AH...
BECAUSE... THEY WERE JUST THERE.
DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JUST TAKE THEM
THIEVING BRAT...
HUH?
ICE-CREAM STICKS?
GIVE 'EM BACK!
THEY'RE MINE!
HMPH!
NEXT YEAR WHEN YOU'RE COMPETING AGAINST HIROSHIMA,
YOU'RE GONNA REGRET THIS
THE ONLY 'BIG-SHOT' THING ABOUT YOU IS YOUR MOUTH
I'LL MAKE YOU SORRY

SEE YOU, BIG-SHOT.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD, OLD MAN!
IT WAS REAL GOOD.
A PRACTICE MATCH FOR THE RED DIAMONDS
HE'S A BIT LIKE TAPPEI.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE YOUNGSTERS...
HMMM.
I WONDER IF HE'LL MAKE IT...?
ISN'T IT A BIT CUTE?
OVER HERE!
KEEP, KEEP! PASS IT BACK TO JOOJI!
THE OPPOSITE SIDE IS OPEN!

OOF!
FUKUDA!
JOOJI!
YEAH! HE GOT IT!!
EURO
EURO

I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF TO HIROSHIMA?
...I COULDN'T AFFORD THE TRAIN FARE...
MUFC
EURO
I'LL BET ALL OF THIS.
SO WILL SOMEONE HAVE A COMPETITION WITH ME PLEASE!
ばん!
I HAVE 4,712 YEN ALL TOGETHER!
Come on Please!
Hey Do as We Know
...HMM
A COMPE-TITION?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO WAY
4,712 YEN
THAT IS THE PRICE OF YOUR FEET RIGHT NOW HUH...
PLEASE! YOU GUYS ARE PROS, YOU CAN AFFORD IT...
PUMA
EURO

I'LL DO IT, KIDDO
JUST DON'T HURT ME, OK?
PUMA
1 10,000 YEN NOTE!!
JOUJI!! HEY..
YEAH!
HEY TSUCHIDA COULD YOU GIVE US A HAND?
SURE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?
I'LL TAKE THAT.
THIS IS JUST A GAME

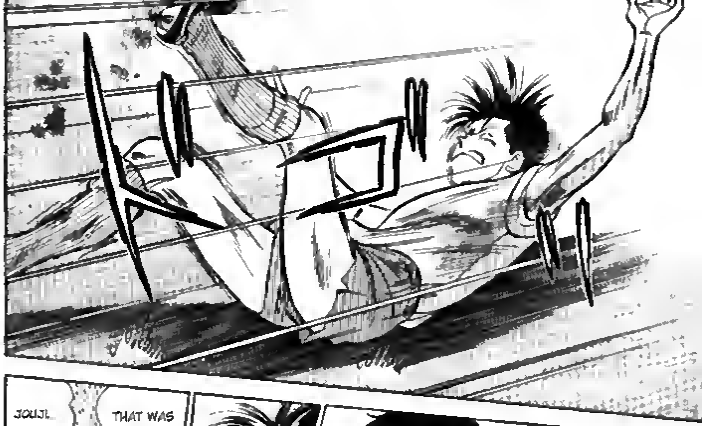
TAKE IT OFF MOTO-HASHI. THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD
IF YOU CAN SHOOT IT, YOU WIN.
GET THE BALL OFF ME BEFORE I REACH THE END LINE.
PUMA
EURO
HEY JOUJI, STOP TEASING HIM.
HE COULDN'T EVEN PASS THE TEST IN THE FIRST PLACE...
TSUCHIDA, YOU BE GOALKEEPER. HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE
WHO WOULD GIVE UP?
WHAT A JOKE AFTER SEEING THAT 10,000 YEN NOTE
YOU GIVEN UP YET, KID?
IT'S NOT EVEN GOING TO BE A COMPETITION...

Shiba Inu Scans

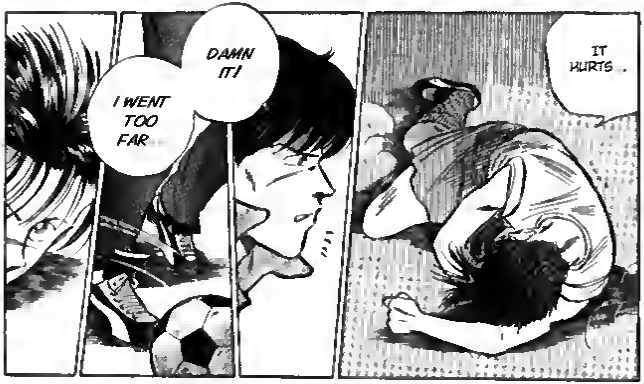
LET'S GO!
!
WILL DETERMINE THE RESULT.
...THAT BLACK AND WHITE BALL,
COME ON!
HMM?
TAKING ON A KID LIKE THAT
MOTOHASHI'S INCREDIBLE

I'M TAKING THAT 10,000 YEN!
UHOOH!
THERE!

ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GET THE BALL..
CHE!
OOF!
PUMA



JOUJI...
THAT WAS A BIT HARSH...


DAMN IT!
I WENT TOO FAR...
IT HURTS...

!!
PUMA
EURO
PUM
WHOA...
DANGEROUS
TCH!
THAT KID...
EVEN IF HE FALLS HE JUST GETS BACK UP!
GRRR!

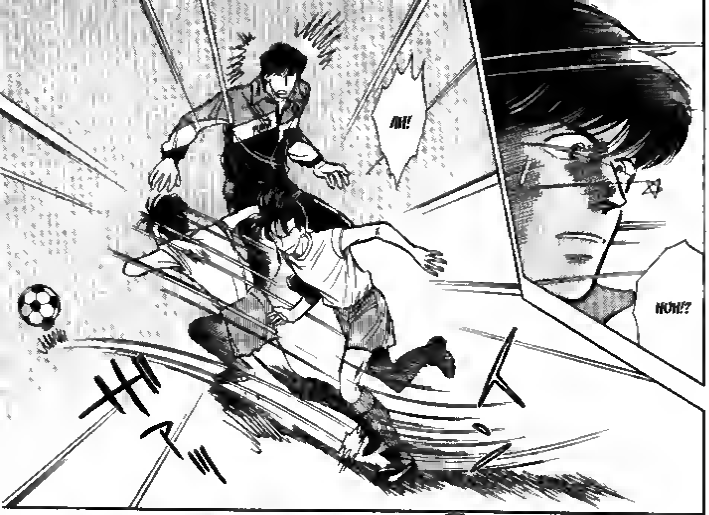
!!
THERE! THERE!
AH...
OH!
BUT THIS LOOKS PRETTY SERIOUS...
JOUJI SAID IT WAS JUST A GAME.
THE KID WASN'T JOKING.
IT REALLY IS A COMPETITION.
10,000 YEN 10,000 YEN
DAMMIT!

THAT'S STRANGE..
HE CROSSED 50M IN NO TIME AT ALL
HE'S CHASING IT!
!
!!

BIZARRE!!

HERE GOES!
HE READ MY MIND IN A SPLIT SECOND!?
HE TOOK IT!!
GALANT

IT'S THAT KID FROM BEFORE
HE ALMOST LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A SECOND
HA... HA... CHE
MU. C


AH!
HUH!?

WOW HE'S FLEXIBLE!
HIS BACK!
HE TRAPPED IT BETWEEN HIS SHOULDER BLADES!
WHAT?
HE JUST DID SOMETHING WEIRD!
YOU THINK IT'D BE OVER THAT EASY?
HEY! HEY! HEY!

HYAA!
PUMA
EURO
PU

LOOKED LIKE HE HAD IT IN HIM FOR A SECOND THERE
BUT IT'S NO USE
MOTO'S GOT IT ALL UNDER CONTROL.
MOTOHASHI IS THE BEST DEFENDER IN JAPAN
THERE'S NO ONE LIKE HIM.
M.U.F.C
PUMA
EURO

GO..
!!
TCH!
OI STOP PUSHING ME....
EURR
THIS GUY...
OOF!
CAREFUL OF YOUR HEAD.

!!
PUMA
GO IN!!
HE SHOT IT!
AH...
FROM THAT POSITION!

ALL RIGHT!
AH...
GOT IT
!!

!!
GAME OVER.
PUMA
EURO
.....
ボール

YOU'RE SO NAIVE...
PUMA
MUF
A...AGAIN!
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE!
YOUR MONEY'S MINE NOW
WHA--!?
EURO

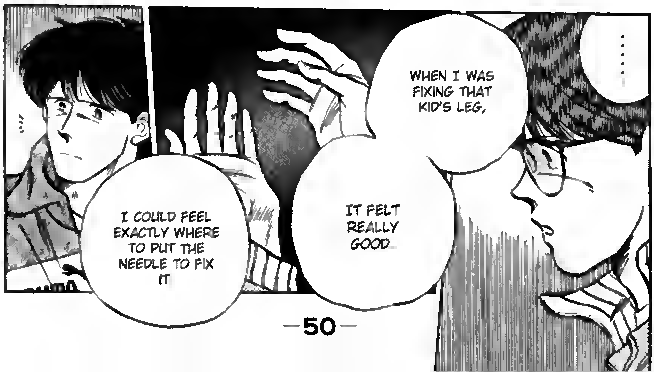
JOLJI, COME ON.
Thank Thank
THE LOSER HAS NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.
.....
DO YOU GET IT, KID?
I'M KIDDING
!
I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY BACK
SO GO BACK HOME
GO ON
I... I DON'T NEED IT!

A JOKE... YOU BASTARD!
I'M NOT STUPID!
I WON'T TAKE MONEY OFF YOU, YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!
OUCH!
OW... OW...
LET'S PLAY AGAIN TOMORROW.
!
SHOW ME YOUR LEG
NO, IT'S FINE.
YOU HURT YOURSELF WHEN YOU KICKED IT
IT'S JUST A BRUISE
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIXIT
I SAID IT'S FINE!
OH DON'T SAY THAT
STOP BEING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY AND LET ME HELP YOU!

?
DON'T... I'M NOT GOOD WITH NEEDLES
IT WON'T HURT, IT WON'T HURT
HOW'S THAT?
EH?
IT DOESN'T HURT...
AH!
JUST ONE MORE RIGHT HERE...
YOU BETTER REMEMBER THIS TOMOKI! HOW OLD MAN!
I'LL TAKE BACK TWICE MY MONEY THEN
THAT'S THE MASTER ACUPUNCTURIST KOBAYASHI FOR YOU
WOW...!

THAT SHOT JUST THEN
IT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SPEED BUT
MAYBE IT WAS JUST A COINCI-DENCE ?
IT HAD SOME STRANGE CHANGE IN IT
?
UP AGAINST OUR ACE...
YEAH, I'LL BE WAITING KID!
THAT BRAT'S GOT A LOT OF SPIRIT .
BUT ALL HE MANAGED TO DO WAS SHOOT..
PUMA
EURO

WHAT'S UP, HIROSHI?
...
MUFC
WELL DONE, TSUCHIDA


I COULD FEEL EXACTLY WHERE TO PUT THE NEEDLE TO FIX IT
IT FELT REALLY GOOD..
WHEN I WAS FIXING THAT KID'S LEG,
.....

THEY ALL HAD SOME SPECIAL 'FEELING' BUT...
MCENROE, MARADONA,
CARL LOUIS AND ASHFORD ALL HAD THE SAME...
I KNOW THAT, OF COURSE .
THAT KID HAS THE SAME THING
.....
BUT WHAT?
THE THING ONLY TOP ATHLETES HAVE,
LIKE A SIXTH SENSE....

DADDY!
BUT..
!
AH NO,
IT'S PROBABLY AN ILLUSION
IT HAS TO BE AN ILLUSION!.
.....
TAPPEI?
DADDY, ARE YOU FINISHED?
GALANT
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER MY HUSBAND
YOU CAME TO PICK ME UP HUH?
AH, IT'S NO PROBLEM
YEP!
MUFC

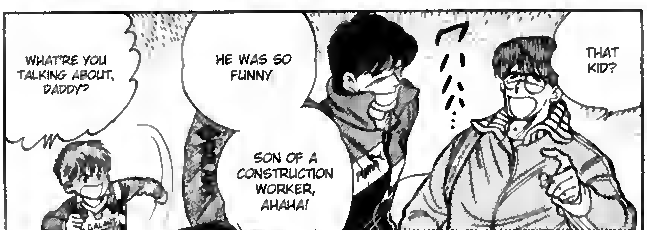
MR KOBAYASHI,
HOW IS HIS KNEE?
IS IT NOT VERY GOOD?
HE DOESN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT IT AT ALL SO .
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S TALK OF HIM GOING PRO...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
TODAY HE GOT ONE GOAL AND ONE ASSIST
HIS FREE KICK IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD! IT REALLY IS SOMETHING
EVEN WHEN HE GOES PRO HE'LL STILL BE THE BEST OF THE BEST
DADDY
IS THIS TREE DYING?
HE'S... REALLY SERIOUS, SO—
IT'S JUST THAT— EVERYTHING'S CHANGING SO QUICKLY,
IT'S SUCH A SHOCK— EVEN WITH THE MONEY

AH,
THAT'S A FALSE DAPHNE TREE.
HUH?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF CAR FUMES AND STUFF...
IT'S NOT DYING AT ALL.
THERE ARE GREEN LEAVES TOWARDS THE TOP,
THOSE ARE THE NEW LEAVES
THERE ARE BROWN LEAVES HERE AND THERE
BUT THE FALSE DAPHNE TREE PUTS OUT ITS NEW BUDS,
THEN DROPS THE OLD LEAVES.
NORMAL TREES DROP ALL THEIR LEAVES,
THEN THE NEW LEAVES COME OUT.
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A "TURNING OVER LEAVES*" TREE

*T/N: THE WORD FOR THE FALSE DAPHNE TREE IN JAPANESE IS YUZURIHA, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "TURNING OVER LEAVES" TREE

.....
OH I JUST READ IT IN A BOOK ONCE.....
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT, HISAKO-SAN
WOW!
That's granny-school teacher for you.
PUMA
PUMA

JOUJI
AREN'T YOU LEAVING SOCCER A BIT TOO EARLY?
I'M NOT RECRUITING NEW PLAYERS ANYMORE
HE WAS LIKE THAT WASN'T HE?
THE GREAT NEWBIE
!


THAT KID?
HE WAS SO FUNNY
SON OF A CONSTRUCTION WORKER, AHAHA!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DADDY?

YOU TOO
I WANT TO SHOW YOU,
WHAT IT TAKES TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD CUP

TAKE ME TO THE WORLD CUP WITH YOU!
ME TOO.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
LET ME STAND ON THE WORLD CUP FIELD WITH YOU...
AS YOUR TRAINER,
EURO
YOU'VE TAKEN ME WITH YOU,
THROUGH YOUR YEARS OF SOCCER SO FAR
OK.

Shiba Inu Scans
IT'S DECIDED.
I'M GETTING ON THE BUS TO MY 'DREAM'
I'LL KEEP DOING MY BEST.
TO THE SEPTEMBER 1992 FIRST J-LEAGUE PRO SOCCER SEASON MATCH OPENING THE NAVISCO CUP!
THAT BASTARD OF AN OLD MAN!
I'LL GET MY MONEY BACK WHATEVER IT TAKES!

J-Dream

Chapter 1

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Shiba Inu Scans

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